

2. (Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 1, wherein said detecting means comprises a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element that is deformed in proportion to the amount of said deformation of said electrostrictive elements, wherein an alternating-current signal is calculated into an absolute value and output by impressing the alternating signal to said electrostrictive elements to deform the same and by outputting an electromotive force generated by the deformation of said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element.

3. (Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 2, wherein said electrostrictive elements and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element are overlapped and pinched between a rigid body that is not deformed.

4. (Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 2, wherein one end of said electrostrictive elements is fixed in a deforming direction thereof while the other end of said electrostrictive elements is fixedly attached to one surface of an elastic plate body, having one fixed end and another free end, and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is plate-shaped and is fixedly attached to the other surface of said elastic plate body.

5. (Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 4, wherein said electrostrictive elements and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element are formed in a plate-like shape, wherein said electrostrictive elements are fixedly attached to one surface of said elastic plate body while said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is fixedly attached to the opposing surface of said elastic plate body.

In the Abstract:

Attached hereto as page 8, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(iii), is a marked-up version of the Abstract showing changes being made thereto. Attached hereto as page 9, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(ii) is a clean version of the Abstract incorporating the changes being made thereto. Please replace the original Abstract with the new Abstract attached as page 9.